THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, the 5th August 1955.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at three of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Starting of the diploma course in Radiology

* 321 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any advertisement was made calling for applications for the diploma course in Radiology proposed to be started in July 1954; and

(*b*) if so, the dates when the advertisements were made and the names of the newspapers in which such advertisements appeared?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir."

" (*b*) A notification was published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* on 28th May 1954. No advertisement calling for applications was made in the newspapers, since in the case of post-graduate courses, except those held in the three Upgraded Departments, it is not usual to publish advertisements in newspapers."

DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—" In view of the fact that this new course of study introduced by the University of Madras was open even to private practitioners who satisfied the University regulations and in view of the fact it will not be possible for them to reach Fort St. George to get a copy of the *Fort St. George Gazette* in which alone it was published, will it not be advisable on the part of Government to advertise it in the Press so that even private practitioners may have a chance to apply for this course of study? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sufficient number of candidates have joined the University diploma course in July this year. Nobody has come this year to take the Government diploma course. I see no necessity to publish any advertisements for the University diploma course in Radiology in the press."

DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—" For the M.B.B.S. course an item was published in the press calling for applications. The diploma in Radiology is a new venture and in the interests of the profession, is it not advisable on the part of Government to give proper advertisement in the lay press? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" If it is found necessary it will be done."

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Dr. A. SREENIVASAN :—" Is it not a fact that students were admitted to this special course of study after the commencement of the academic year according to University regulations? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" This question the hon. Member has put already once. I do not think he has raised any new points this time."

Price of firewood

* 322 *Q.*—Sri N. ANNAMALAI PILLAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether coupes in forest were let in auction for Rs. 6 fifteen years back and now let for Rs. 60;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the price of the firewood has consequently increased; and

(*c*) whether the Government propose to take any steps to make the firewood available to the poor at a reduced price, and if so, what they are?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) It cannot be definitely stated that the coupes sold in auction at Rs. 6 per acre 15 years ago are now being sold at Rs. 60 per acre, since the coupes offered for sale year after year are not the same; and the sale amount depends upon various factors such as the density of growth, the market value of firewood, location of the coupes, etc.

" (*b*) It cannot be said that the higher price at which the fuel coupes are sold have contributed to the increase in the price of firewood. The cost of firewood has increased as a result of the war just like any other commodity.

" (*c*) According to the terms and conditions in the sale notice and agreement contractors should sell firewood to ryots at the concessional rates specified in the agreement; and this will meet the *bona fide* domestic requirements of the ryots to some extent."

Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I know if there is any proposal to introduce a system of price control for firewood? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" All controls have gone. I do not think there is any proposal to have new controls."

Sri MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" When the prices of various commodities have gone down considerably, why is it that the price of firewood alone in the City of Madras has gone up abnormally? Therefore is not the Government of Madras partly responsible for this because they have raised the coupe rates? "